



City of Milford, Connecticut

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - and - MILFORD YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Dear Senator Slossberg, Senator Somers, and Representative Rosario:

On behalf of the clients and staff of the Milford Department of Human Services/ Youth and Family Services, we are writing to you in an effort to demonstrate the growing needs of our community and to implore you to maintain current grant funding levels for Youth Service Bureaus across the State. Milford Youth & Family Services provides a multitude of prevention and intervention-based services that are intended to strengthen families in our city.

We provide clinical services both onsite and in the community. In our effort to align with the Youth Service Bureau Mandate, our agency collaborates closely with multiple municipal and community based agencies including, but not limited to, the following: Milford Public Schools to address truancy and behavioral issues, the Milford Police Department for Diversion of youth offences, and the Milford Fire Department to educate and treat fire-setting behaviors. In addition to these ongoing collaborations, we partner with the Milford Public Library, Rape Crisis of Milford, and the Boys & Girls Club of Milford among many other organizations. All of our services are provided at either low cost or no cost to the clients and no one is turned away due to hardship.

Through these collaborations, we are able to identify both mental health and social service needs and provide wraparound care to those most vulnerable in Milford. Whether it is through traditional therapeutic approaches or innovative programming, we have consistently connected families with necessary resources to not only survive but thrive. Continued budget cuts will leave our clients without support or anywhere to turn.

Though we understand that our state is facing a substantial financial crisis and that these are difficult economic times, it is crucial to recognize that Youth Service Bureaus across the state have demonstrated that we are both an effective and efficient resource to our state's citizens and serve to prevent significant costs in the long run. Therefore, we strongly urge you to maintain funding for Youth Service Bureaus.

Respectfully Submitted,

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